



STATE OF CONNECTICUT • COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charlotte Adams, Tim Olmsted, Gary Riley, Terry Shook and Joe Wehr

MEMBERS ABSENT: John O'Shaughnessy

OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Charter

1. CALL TO ORDER:

MOVED (ADAMS), SECONDED (SHOOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO OPEN THE MEETING OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION (CRC) AT 7:12 P.M. IN THE TOWN HALL, 55 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT.

2. CITIZENS FORUM:

Peter Charter referenced his letter dated April 3, 2006 re: [1] grant approval by Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance prior to acceptance of grants; [2] Expenditure of \$1 million or more must go to automatic referendum; and [3] give the Board of Selectmen, at any time during the budget process, the option to divide the Board of Education and Municipal budgets for vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. January 24, 2006 Regular Meeting

MOVED (OLMSTED), SECONDED (SHOOK) AND PASSED [ADAMS ABSTAINED] TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28, 2006.

4. CONSIDER CHANGES TO TOWN CHARTER

- a. Form of Town Government

Mr. Shook stated that judging from public input, residents prefer a Town Administrator/Town Council form of government. Mrs. Adams has asked the Town Administrator of Vernon to make a presentation to the CRC in May. The sub-committee will also contact surrounding towns and prepare a list of the pros and cons of a Town Manger vs. Town Administrator form of government.

Mr. Shook suggested that the sub-committee visit the local civic organizations to get their input regarding a change in Town government. With the First Selectman's authorization, he will draft a letter to the civic organizations requesting the subcommittee make a presentation at their regular meeting.

b. Town-wide Shared Services, including Building Maintenance and Finance

Chairman Wehr has contacted other Towns regarding shared services and many have mentioned positive experiences. Some reported uncertainty and distrust at first but all agreed it is a worthwhile change. Mr. Wehr stated that his research has confirmed that there is a lot of merit for shared services. He suggested the CRC establish a commission within the Charter to initiate this concept.

c. Other Changes

Regarding Mr. Charter's suggestion to allow the BOS to divide the budget, Mrs. Adams will work with the Town Attorney to draft language to provide this option. Mr. Riley will draft language for Section 1009 (J) to address the suggestion regarding grant approval by Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance prior to acceptance of grants. Mr. Olmsted will research the proposal requiring expenditure of \$1 million or more to go to automatic referendum.

Mr. Olmsted reported that he researched the function of the Public Safety Commission and felt the commission is outdated. He drafted language that would eliminate the Public Safety Commission and establish an Emergency Management Commission. The CRC will discuss the membership, which may include public safety agency representatives, at the next meeting.

Mr. Olmsted also distributed suggested language regarding establishing an Ethic Commission. He provided copies of information on Ethic Commissions in other towns. Mrs. Adams questioned if an ordinance should be in place before establishing a commission. This item will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Mr. Riley referenced the e-mail he submitted regarding alternate members on boards/commission. The CRC will review this data at the next meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (SHOOK), SECONDED (RILEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THIS MEETING AT 9:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Sauve
Recording Secretary